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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/720,228	12/18/2000	Jarkko Raty	989.1020	9271

21831 7590 02/13/2002

STEINBERG & RASKIN, P.C.
1140 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, 15th FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10036-5803

EXAMINER

MILLER, JONATHAN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/720,228

Applicant(s)

RATY ET AL.

Examiner

Jonathan R. Miller

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 December 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
2. The drawings are objected to because the F2 arrow shown in Figure 1 is pointed in the opposite direction. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 11, line 9, "as" should be removed; on page 12, line 24 "tonnes" should be corrected; on page 13, line 10, "1" should be followed by "degrees", or the symbol; on page 15, line 16, the reference numeral "35" is used to refer to different parts.

Appropriate correction is required.

4. This application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b). An abstract on a separate sheet is required.
5. 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, requires the specification to be written in "full, clear, concise, and exact terms." The specification is replete with terms which are not clear, concise and exact. The specification should be revised carefully in order to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112,

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first paragraph. Examples of some unclear, inexact or verbose terms used in the specification are: page 1, line 25, "arranged rotatable"; page 8, lines 8+, "which supporting surface is . . ."

Claim Objections

6. A clean copy of the amended claims is not in the file and need to be submitted by the applicant.
7. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 5, "thereon" should follow "a complete reel". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
9. Claim 24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 24 states that the spool is rolled from the support surface onto the rail members that the sliding support surface moves on. This is not what is disclosed in the specification, where the spool is rolled to the bearing surface. Claim 24 has been examined below with the understanding that the spool is rolled onto the bearing surface.
10. Claims 8 – 14 and 18 – 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 8 and 18, as well as some dependent claims, claim a slidable supporting surface without claiming the slidable supporting structure. It is similar to claiming a hole without claiming the structure that the hole is in. The Applicant claims a sliding support structure, that structure having a support surface.

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11. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 12 states: "the mating section extending on at least a length substantially in the direction of the supporting surface and the bearing surface." This is indefinite, as the surfaces do not have directions. These surfaces are multi-dimensional objects, and it is unclear what is being claimed.

12. Claims 15 – 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims use the terms "reel spool" and "reel". It is not clear whether these are intended to be the same component or different components.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

13. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

14. Claims 8 – 14 and 18 – 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thomas et al. The reference discloses reeling means (19), supporting structures having a bearing surface for supporting at least one of a reel spool and a complete reel thereon (27), and on which the at least one of a reel spool and a complete reel can roll, and a slidable supporting surface structured and arranged to retain a reel spool thereon (5), wherein the supporting surface is

slidably movable from a functional vicinity of the reeling means to a vicinity of the bearing surface of the supporting structure (Figs. 1 – 3).

15. In regards to claim 9, the reference discloses the supporting surface and the bearing surface substantially on the same horizontal and vertical planes (Figs. 3 and 4).

16. In regards to claim 10, the reference discloses the movable supporting surface arranged in a slide (see 15), the slide supported by the supporting structure (9).

17. In regards to claim 11, the reference discloses the movable supporting surface having a width equal to a width of the bearing surface (Fig. 4; see 17 and 27, although bearing surfaces not specifically numbered).

18. In regards to claim 12, the reference discloses the movable supporting surface of the slide is provided with a mating surface formed on an end thereof and wherein the bearing surface is provided with a corresponding mating surface formed on an end thereof such that when the slide is brought in contact with the bearing surface, a mating section is formed there between, the mating section extending on at least a length substantially in the direction of the supporting surface and the bearing surface (Fig. 3; col. 7, lines 30+). As can be seen from Fig. 3, as the roll is transferred the supporting surface slides towards the bearing surface. At a point in this process, ends of the two surfaces – part of each can be called “mating surfaces” – overlap. This overlap by definition discloses a mating section extending on at least a length substantially in the direction of the supporting surface and the bearing surface.

19. In regards to claim 13, the reference discloses the supporting surface is a rolling surface on which the reel spool can roll and move with respect to the supporting surface. As the material is wound onto the spool, the spool rolls and moves with respect to the supporting surface.

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20. In regards to claim 14, the reference discloses the supporting surface forms an extension of the bearing surface, whereby the reel spool can be moved from the support surface to the bearing surface by rolling (Figs. 5 and 6; col. 10, lines 5+).

21. In regards to claim 18, the reference discloses providing a reel spool with opposed ends, providing reeling means for guiding the web onto the reel spool (19), with a nip between the reeling means and reel spool (Fig. 2), supporting the ends of the reel spool on a slidable supporting surface (5, 17) when the reeling means and the reel spool are in a nip closed position, forming a reel on the reel spool, and changing the position of the reel with respect to the reeling means, as the reel is being formed on the reel spool (col. 5, lines 55+).

22. In regards to claim 19, the reference discloses sliding the supporting surface away from the reeling means as the reel being formed on the reel spool grows in diameter (col. 5, lines 55+; Fig. 5).

23. In regards to claim 11, the reference discloses providing a bearing surface to receive the reel spool from the supporting surface thereon, wherein the supporting surface is provide with a rolling surface vertically aligned with the bearing surface such that the pair of opposed ends of the reel spool can roll from the supporting surface to the bearing surface (Figs. 5 and 6).

24. In regards to claim 21, the reference discloses placing the empty reel spool onto the slidable supporting structure at an initial stage of the reeling process (col. 7, lines 1+).

25. In regards to claim 22, the reference discloses, during a reel spool change situation, opening the nip closed position by sliding the reel spool away from the reeling means and transferring the reel spool from the slidable supporting surface to rail members (col. 7, lines 30+).

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26. In regards to claim 23, the reference discloses, during a reel spool change situation, sliding the support surface into an initial position in the vicinity of the reeling means, and transferring a new reel spool on to the sliding support surface (col. 7, lines 1+).

27. In regards to claim 24, the reference discloses, during a reel spool change situation, sliding the support surface, having a full reel spool supported thereon, along rail members and rolling the full reel from the support surface to the bearing surface (col. 7, lines 30+). The reference discloses that the spool may be full before transporting from the support surface to the bearing surface, but need not be.

28. Claims 8 – 11, 15 – 20 and 22 – 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kyytsonen. The reference discloses reeling means (15), supporting structures having a bearing surface for supporting at least one of a reel spool and a complete reel thereon (10), and on which the at least one of a reel spool and a complete reel can roll, and a slidable supporting surface structured and arranged to retain a reel spool thereon (45), wherein the supporting surface is slidably movable from a functional vicinity of the reeling means to a vicinity of the bearing surface of the supporting structure (Figs. 1 – 5).

29. In regards to claim 9, the reference discloses the supporting surface and the bearing surface substantially on the same horizontal and vertical planes (Figs. 1 – 5).

30. In regards to claim 10, the reference inherently discloses the movable supporting surface arranged in a slide, the slide supported by the supporting structure (Figs. 1 – 5; col. 3, lines 65+).

31. In regards to claim 11, the reference discloses the movable supporting surface having a width equal to a width of the bearing surface (Fig 3). The claim does not specify which dimension is the width of the bearing surface, and therefore the Examiner is referring to either

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the side thickness of the elements 10 and 45 or the width in the axial direction of the spool which is inherently the same width.

32. In regards to claim 15, the reference discloses providing a reeling carriage (35A) for supporting a reel during a change of the reel, and providing a pressing device (35) in the form of a roll attached to the reeling carriage, wherein, substantially immediately after the reel change, the reeling carriage is driven to the vicinity of a reeling means (Figs. 1 – 5).

33. In regards to claim 16, the reference discloses starting the reeling on the new spool before the reeling carriage is driven to the vicinity of the reeling means (Figs. 4 and 5).

34. In regards to claim 17, the reference discloses reeling a web onto a support of a primary reeling device for a suitable period of time, after the change of the reel takes place, and driving the reeling carriage together with the pressing device to the vicinity of the reeling means of the reeling means during the period of time (Figs. 4 and 5).

35. In regards to claim 18, the reference discloses providing a reel spool with opposed ends, providing reeling means (15) for guiding the web onto the reel spool (20), with a nip (N) between the reeling means and reel spool, supporting the ends of the reel spool on a slidable supporting surface (45) when the reeling means and the reel spool are in a nip closed position, forming a reel on the reel spool, and changing the position of the reel with respect to the reeling means, as the reel is being formed on the reel spool (col. 3, lines 24+).

36. In regards to claim 19, the reference inherently discloses sliding the supporting surface away from the reeling means as the reel being formed on the reel spool grows in diameter (col. 3, lines 24+).

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37. In regards to claim 20, the reference discloses providing a bearing surface to receive the reel spool from the supporting surface thereon, wherein the supporting surface is provide with a rolling surface vertically aligned with the bearing surface such that the pair of opposed ends of the reel spool can roll from the supporting surface to the bearing surface (Fig. 5).

38. In regards to claim 22, the reference discloses, during a reel spool change situation, opening the nip closed position by sliding the reel spool away from the reeling means and transferring the reel spool from the slidable supporting surface to rail members (Figs. 1 – 5).

39. In regards to claim 23, the reference discloses, during a reel spool change situation, sliding the support surface into an initial position in the vicinity of the reeling means, and transferring a new reel spool on to the sliding support surface (col. 4, lines 35+).

40. In regards to claim 24, the reference discloses, during a reel spool change situation, sliding the support surface, having a full reel spool supported thereon, along rail members and rolling the full reel from the support surface to the bearing surface (Figs. 3 – 5).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan R. Miller whose telephone number is (703) 305-5778. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald P. Walsh can be reached on (703) 306-4173. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

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jrm

February 6, 2002


DONALD P. WALSH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600